

In the Claims:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

Sub D1
B1
~~33. (Amended) A process for the production of cis-1,4-polybutadiene having a gel content below 250 ppm, comprising polymerizing 1,3-butadiene in the presence of a catalyst and a polymerization diluent, wherein the polymerization diluent comprises an organic solvent and water particles having a median particle size less than or equal to about 10 μm .~~

Sub D2
Sub D1
cont'd
~~38. (Amended) The process of Claim 37, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of a saturated hydrocarbon, an unsaturated hydrocarbon and mixtures thereof.~~

~~39. (Amended) The process of Claim 38, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of a C₄-C₁₀ aliphatic hydrocarbon, a C₅-C₁₀ cyclic aliphatic hydrocarbon, a C₆-C₉ aromatic hydrocarbon, a C₂-C₁₀ monoolefinic hydrocarbon and mixtures thereof.~~

Sub D3
Sub D1
cont'd
~~55. (Amended) The process of Claim 48, wherein the organo-aluminum halide compound is selected from:~~

~~(I)~~

~~(a) an alkyl aluminum chloride selected from the group consisting of diethyl aluminum chloride and ethyl aluminum sesquichloride, or a mixture of :~~

~~(a) and~~

~~(b) an organo aluminum compound corresponding to the formula:~~



~~wherein:~~

~~R: represents a C₈-C₁₂ alkyl group;~~

~~and~~

~~(II) an alkyl aluminum chloride wherein the alkyl group has from 8 to 12 carbon atoms.~~

On new page 18, please add the following:

--GEL REDUCTION IN HIGH CIS-1,4-POLYBUTADIENE

PRODUCTION PROCESS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

B4 The present invention relates to a process for the production of cis-1,4-polybutadiene having a low gel content. The process includes polymerizing 1,3-butadiene in the presence of a catalyst and a polymerization diluent. According to the present invention, the diluent contains an organic solvent and water particles having a median particle size less than or equal to about 10 μm .--